

Subject: British Colonial coins;
Countermarked coins of the
West Indies

Messenger, L.J.P.
[London, England]

1919

151 Brecknock Road
Yufnell Park
London NW
England
21 March 1919

Dear Sir

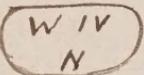
As a collector of British Colonial coins I have read with great interest your paper on the cut & countermarked coins for the West Indies in the American Journal of Numismatics.

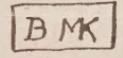
I have in my collection one or two pieces which appear to be unpublished and thought you might like to have particulars of these. Overleaf I have described the coins in detail.

Yours faithfully
L G P Messenger

PS I am a Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society

1 decime of the French Rep. date
not visible. This is countermarked
with three fleur de lys. These are
smaller & more compact than on the
St. Martin piece

= George III Halfpenny 1806 - countermarked
incuse, a small crown with 
under ? Nevis

= U.S.A cent 1824 - in an oblong
indent, letters in relief 

like this 

I have also a small Spanish
bullock coin dated 1688 countermarked
with SK. (St. Kitts)

April 3rd, 1919.

Mr. L. J. P. Messenger,
151 Brecknock Road,
Tufnell Park,
London, N.W., England.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of March 21st at hand, and I am very glad that you have been interested in my account of West Indian Coins. I wish that I had the opportunity to see more specimens and been able to have gone into original documents. When I compiled this list I excluded a great many counterstamped pieces that did not seem to meet with the proper requirements. The Fleur-de-Lys countermark in several forms was used in France quite extensively to legitimize at various times certain worn out coins that were in circulation. A peculiar looking Fleur-de-Lys was used by one of the sub-treasuries in this country as a cancellation stamp on money that was brought in to them to redeem and which the sub-treasury would not accept. Undoubtedly the fleur-de-lys was used as a counterstamp in the West Indies in a number of instances that had not been recorded. Consequently I am at a loss to tell you exactly whether your three fleur-de-lys have much of any significance or not.

Your George III half penny with ^W IV ^{IV} crowned strikes me as being an official mark, and I think that it may be for Nevis without doubt. As far as I know Nevis counterstamped certain silver and the billon sou's, consequently if they stamped larger copper pieces they might use a different mark.

The United States cent stamped B M K I do not consider having any significance. We find great quantities of the old cents as in England there are found numbers of half pennies with various initials stamped on them. A great proportion of these have no significance or official use, being done by private people for no especial reason or for minor reasons unknown today.

Your Spanish billon coin stamped S K, I consider a scarce piece as I have never seen this SK stamp except on the billon sous, though I have heard it has been found on other types of coins.

I beg to thank you for the interest you have taken in the subject, and if you find other varieties I would be glad to have you let me know, also how much interested are you in West Indian coins. To me it is a very facinating subject.

Yours very truly,

Curator.

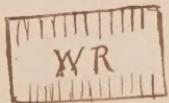
151 Brecknock Road
Lufnell Park
London N

6th May 1919

Dear Sir

Please accept my best thanks for your letter of the 3rd ulto & for the information contained therein. I agree that these countermarked pieces are of unusual interest & I am always on the look out for new varieties. Since writing to you I have acquired the following:-

A George III broad rim penny countermarked WR in relief within an oblong incuse. The incuse has projecting points, directed inwards.



I rather think this belongs to
the West Indies. I already possess
a George III $\frac{1}{2}$ with the countermark
WR under a crown for Sierra Leone
also $\frac{1}{2}$ countermarked IB. I do
not think the latter is of any
special significance.

My friend, M^r Henry Garside,
has described one or two unpublished
pieces in his own collection, in the
current no of Spink's Circular.

Yours very truly
George R. Messenger